



## **Professional Engineering Services (PES)**

FSC Group 87, Class 871

**Special Item Numbers:**

871-3 System Design, Engineering and Integration

**Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.**

11767 Katy Freeway, Suite 510

Houston, Texas 77079

(281) 759-6400

**Contract Number: GS-23F-0261L**

**Contract Period: 08/21/01 – 08/20/06**

**Business Size: Large Business under SIC 8711**

# *Authorized FSS Schedule Pricelist*



**Federal Supply Service**  
U.S. General Services Administration



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**CONTRACT MODIFICATIONS**

None.

**GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
FEDERAL SUPPLY SERVICE**

On-line access to contract ordering information, terms and conditions, up-to-date pricing, and the option to create an electronic delivery order is available through GSA *Advantage!*, a menu-driven database system. The INTERNET address for GSA *Advantage!* is:  
<http://www.gsa.gov>.



**CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

**1. Awarded Special Item Numbers:**

SIN	Description
871-3	System Design, Engineering and Integration

**2. Maximum Order.**

The maximum order threshold value for SIN 871-3 is \$750,000 per order. Note: The maximum order as specified is the suggested renegotiation point whereby agencies should seek additional concessions (in accordance with FAR 8.404).

**3. Minimum Order:**

\$100.00 per order.

**4. Geographic Coverage (delivery area):**

All Domestic Locations (the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico).

**5. Point(s) of Production (city, county, and state or foreign country):**

Office	Address
Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.....	11767 Katy Freeway Suite 510 Harris County Houston, Texas 77079

**6. Discounts from List Prices or Statement of Net:**

Prices shown herein are net prices.

**7. Other Discounts:**

None

**8. Prompt Payment Terms:**

Prompt payment is 0%, Net 30 days from date of invoice or date of acceptance, whichever is later.

**9a. Notification that Government Purchase Cards are Accepted Below the Micropurchase Threshold:**

Government credit cards are accepted for orders below the micropurchase threshold of \$2500.

**9b. Notification that Government Purchase Cards are Accepted or Not Accepted Above the Micropurchase Threshold:**

Government credit cards are accepted for orders above the micropurchase threshold of \$2500.

**10a. Time of Delivery:**

The time of delivery shall be negotiated and agreed upon by Contractor and ordering office for each individual task order. The Contractor shall deliver Professional Engineering Services in accordance with the Government's order and accompanying Statement of Work.

**10b. Expedited Delivery:**

The ordering agency should contact the Contractor to ascertain whether an expedited delivery time agreeable to both parties is available. The time of delivery shall be negotiated and agreed upon by Contractor and ordering office for each individual task order.

**10c. Overnight and 2-day Delivery:**

The ordering agency should contact the Contractor to ascertain whether a 2 day delivery time agreeable to both parties is available. The time of delivery shall be negotiated and agreed upon by Contractor and ordering office for each individual task order.

**10d. Urgent Requirements:**

When the Federal Supply Schedule contract delivery period does not meet the bona fide urgent delivery requirements of an ordering agency, agencies are encouraged, if time permits, to contact the Contractor for the purpose of obtaining accelerated delivery. The Contractor shall reply to the inquiry within 3 workdays after receipt. (The Contractor shall confirm telephonic



replies in writing.) If the Contractor offers an accelerated delivery time acceptable to the ordering agency, any order(s) placed pursuant to the agreed upon accelerated delivery time frame shall be delivered within this shorter delivery time and in accordance with all other terms and conditions of the contract.

**11. F.O.B. Point:**

Not applicable to the scope of this contract.

**12. Ordering Address(es):**

Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.  
11767 Katy Freeway, Suite 510  
Houston, TX 77079

**13. Payment Address(es):**

Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.  
11767 Katy Freeway, Suite 510  
Houston, TX 77079

**14. Warranty Provision:**

For the purpose of this contract, commitments, warranties and representations include, in addition to those agreed to for the entire schedule contract, the following:

- (1) Time of delivery quotations for individual orders;
- (2) Any representations and/or warranties concerning the services made in any literature, description, drawings and/or specifications furnished by the Contractor.

The Contractor warrants that the professional engineering services shall be performed by qualified individuals in accordance with generally accepted industry standards.

For any breach of the above warranty, the Government's exclusive remedy and Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.'s entire liability shall be the recovery of fees paid to the Contractor for the unsatisfactory services.

The above is not intended to encompass professional engineering services not currently covered by the GSA Schedule contract.

**15. Terms and Conditions of Government Purchase Card Acceptance (any thresholds above the micropurchase level):**

No special concessions granted.

**16. Terms and Conditions for Any Other Services:**

Not applicable for professional engineering services being offered by Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.

**17. List of Service and Distribution Points:**

Not applicable for professional engineering services being offered by Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.

**18. List of Participating Dealers:**

Not applicable for professional engineering services being offered by Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.

**19. Preventive Maintenance:**

Not applicable for professional engineering services being offered by Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.

**20. Year 2000 (Y2K) Compliant:**

This contract does not provide for IT Services. Incidental IT capabilities may be required and provided as part of a larger engineering service being procured under this contract. In these instances, the specific Y2K issues will be identified and negotiated on a task order basis.

**21. Environmental Attributes, e.g., Recycled Content, Energy Efficiency, and/or Reduced Pollutants:**

Not applicable for professional engineering services being offered by Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.

**22. Data Universal Number Systems (DUNS) Number:**

DUNS No. 15-429-6933.

**23. Notification Regarding Registration in Central Contractor Registration (CCR) Database.**

Ratnala & Bahl, Inc. has registered with the Central Contractor Registration Database.



**CORPORATE EXPERIENCE AND CAPABILITIES OF  
RATNALA & BAHL, INC.**

Ratnala & Bahl, Inc., is a full service engineering, architectural and surveying firm that was established in 1985. The firm started as a single practitioner and today employees more than 70 professional engineers, architects, technical support personnel, CADD draftsmen and administrative staff. Its headquarters office is located in west Houston, Texas.

In 1999, the firm produced over \$100 million in construction projects, including new buildings, renovations, modifications to laboratories, utility infrastructure, wastewater plants, roadways and bridges. As a full service engineering, architectural and surveying firm, Ratnala & Bahl, Inc. provides civil, structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical and environmental services.

Collectively, its principals and senior design professionals represent more than a century of global and multi-display architectural and engineering experience. Its staff's average experience exceeds 20 years and it has completed the design and construction of more than 200 projects with a construction value in excess of \$750 million in the past 14 years. The firm provides the follow services:

- Civil Engineering
- Surveying
- Architectural Programming and Design
- Construction Documents and Construction Phase Services
- Interior Design and Space Planning
- Structural Engineering
- MEP Engineering
- Master Planning
- Environmental Engineering
- Program/Project Management

Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.'s experience and expertise include the design and construction of single and multi-story office buildings, educational facilities, criminal justice facilities, pre-engineered metal buildings, specialized service and repair facilities, and the design and construction of operational and control facilities. In addition to new construction, additions and renovations, it has provided professional services for Life Safety and Code compliance, roof repairs, HVAC repairs/replacement, ADA modifications and hazardous material handling. A senior member of the firm is a registered professional land surveyor (Texas). The firm is experienced in GPS and Satellite Aerial surveying techniques.

The firm's clientele includes government (local, county and state and federal agencies) and private sector clients such as the City of Houston, Harris County, Houston METRO, Brown & Root USA, Fluor Daniel, Parsons Brinckerhoff, the Port of Houston, AMOCO, Houston ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, S&B Infrastructure, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc., and TxDOT.

Ratnala & Bahl, Inc.'s design and analysis and project management abilities are complemented by the use of current state-of-the-art computers using the latest version of AutoCAD (v14 and 2000), Arclnfo, Intergraph/MicroStation, and Primavera (Expedition, Project Planner & SureTrak) software. In addition, its workstations are networked with access to the Internet and other software such as Microsoft Office, Corel WordPerfect Suite 8, VISIO and other design/construction software.

**PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES OFFERED**

The Contractor has been awarded a contract to provide services under SIN 871-3 System Design, Engineering and Integration under the Primary Engineering Discipline (PED) of Civil Engineering, as identified below:

The Government defined and awarded this contract after evaluation based on contractor experience, negotiated cost reasonableness, and past performance. Task Orders identified and defined under this SIN and Primary Engineering Discipline may be awarded to the Contractor. A description of the SIN and Primary Engineering Discipline follows:

**SIN 871-3 SYSTEM DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND INTEGRATION**

Services required under this SIN involve the translation of a system (or subsystem, program, project, activity) concept into a preliminary and detailed design (engineering plans and specifications), performing risk identification/analysis/mitigation, traceability, and then integrating the various components to produce a working prototype or model of the system. Typical associated tasks include, but are not limited to computer-aided design, design preparation, configuration management and document control, fabrication, assembly and simulation, modeling, training, privatization and outsourcing.

Example: The navigation satellite concept produced in the preceding stage will be converted to a detailed engineering design package, performance will be computer



simulated and a working model will be built for testing and design verification.

Inappropriate use of this SIN is providing professional engineering services not specifically related to concept development and requirements analysis and its associated disciplines.

**CIVIL ENGINEERING/ PRIMARY ENGINEERING DESCRIPTION**

The Primary Engineering Discipline of Civil Engineering includes, but is not limited to, planning, evaluation, and operations of power generating plants, the production, furnishing, construction, alteration, repair, processing or assembling of vessels, aircraft, or other kinds of personal property, including heating, ventilation and air-conditioning for such vessels and/or aircrafts.

Within the civil engineering discipline, there are several specialties within the scope of this work; a partial listing follows:

- \* Geotechnical
- \* Surveying

**CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS – COMMERCIAL ITEMS/52.212-4 (MAY 1999)**

- (a) **Inspection/Acceptance.** The Contractor shall only tender for acceptance those items that conform to the requirements of this contract. The Government reserves the right to inspect or test any supplies or services that have been tendered for acceptance. The Government may require repair or replacement of nonconforming supplies or reperformance of nonconforming services at no increase in contract price. The Government must exercise its postacceptance rights (1) within a reasonable time after the defect was discovered or should have been discovered; and (2) before any substantial change occurs in the condition of the item, unless the change is due to the defect in the item.
- (b) **Assignment.** The Contractor or its assignee's rights to be paid amounts due as a result of performance of this contract, may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financing institution, including any Federal lending agency in accordance with the Assignment of Claims Act (31 U.S.C. 3727).

- (c) **Changes.** Changes in the terms and conditions of this contract may be made only by written agreement of the parties.
- (d) **Disputes.** This contract is subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, as amended (41 U.S.C. 601-613). Failure of the parties to this contract to reach agreement on any request for equitable adjustment, claim, appeal or action arising under or relating to this contract shall be a dispute to be resolved in accordance with the clause at FAR 52.233-1, Disputes, which is incorporated herein by reference. The Contractor shall proceed diligently with performance of this contract, pending final resolution of any dispute arising under the contract.
- (e) **Definitions.** The clause at FAR 52.202-1, Definitions, is incorporated herein by reference.
- (f) **Excusable delays.** The Contractor shall be liable for default unless nonperformance is caused by an occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the Contractor and without its fault or negligence such as, acts of God or the public enemy, acts of the Government in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, unusually severe weather, and delays of common carriers. The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer in writing as soon as it is reasonably possible after the commencement of any excusable delay, setting forth the full particulars in connection therewith, shall remedy such occurrence with all reasonable dispatch, and shall promptly give written notice to the Contracting Officer of the cessation of such occurrence.
- (g) **Invoice.** The Contractor shall submit an original invoice and three copies (or electronic invoice, if authorized,) to the address designated in the contract to receive invoices. An invoice must include—
  - (1) Name and address of the Contractor;
  - (2) Invoice date;
  - (3) Contract number, contract line item number and, if applicable, the order number;
  - (4) Description, quantity, unit of measure, unit price and extended price of the items delivered;
  - (5) Shipping number and date of shipment including the bill of lading number and weight of shipment if shipped on Government bill of lading;

- (6) Terms of any prompt payment discount offered;
- (7) Name and address of official to whom payment is to be sent; and
- (8) Name, title, and phone number of person to be notified in event of defective invoice.

Invoices will be handled in accordance with the Prompt Payment Act (31 U.S.C. 3903) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-125, Prompt Payment. Contractors are encouraged to assign an identification number to each invoice.

- (h) **Patent indemnity.** The Contractor shall indemnify the Government and its officers, employees and agents against liability, including costs, for actual or alleged direct or contributory infringement of, or inducement to infringe, any United States or foreign patent, trademark or copyright, arising out of the performance of this contract, provided the Contractor is reasonably notified of such claims and proceedings.
- (i) **Payment.** Payment shall be made for items accepted by the Government that have been delivered to the delivery destinations set forth in this contract. The Government will make payment in accordance with the Prompt Payment Act (31 U.S.C. 3903) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-125, Prompt Payment. If the Government makes payment by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), see 52.212-5(b) for the appropriate EFT clause. In connection with any discount offered for early payment, time shall be computed from the date of the invoice. For the purpose of computing the discount earned, payment shall be considered to have been made on the date which appears on the payment check or the specified payment date if an electronic funds transfer payment is made.
- (j) **Risk of loss.** Unless the contract specifically provides otherwise, risk of loss or damage to the supplies provided under this contract shall remain with the Contractor until, and shall pass to the Government upon:
  - (1) Delivery of the supplies to a carrier, if transportation is f.o.b. origin; or
  - (2) Delivery of the supplies to the Government at the destination specified in the contract, if transportation is f.o.b. destination.
- (k) **Taxes.** The contract price includes all applicable Federal, State, and local taxes and duties.

- (l) **Termination for the Government's convenience.** The Government reserves the right to terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for its sole convenience. In the event of such termination, the Contractor shall immediately stop all work hereunder and shall immediately cause any and all of its suppliers and subcontractors to cease work. Subject to the terms of this contract, the Contractor shall be paid a percentage of the contract price reflecting the percentage of the work performed prior to the notice of termination, plus reasonable charges the Contractor can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Government using its standard record keeping system, have resulted from the termination. The Contractor shall not be required to comply with the cost accounting standards or contract cost principles for this purpose. This paragraph does not give the Government any right to audit the Contractor's records. The Contractor shall not be paid for any work performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.
- (m) **Termination for cause.** The Government may terminate this contract, or any part hereof, for cause in the event of any default by the Contractor, or if the Contractor fails to comply with any contract terms and conditions, or fails to provide the Government, upon request, with adequate assurances of future performance. In the event of termination for cause, the Government shall not be liable to the Contractor for any amount for supplies or services not accepted, and the Contractor shall be liable to the Government for any and all rights and remedies provided by law. If it is determined that the Government improperly terminated this contract for default, such termination shall be deemed a termination for convenience.
- (n) **Title.** Unless specified elsewhere in this contract, title to items furnished under this contract shall pass to the Government upon acceptance, regardless of when or where the Government takes physical possession.
- (o) **Warranty.** The Contractor warrants and implies that the items delivered hereunder are merchantable and fit for use for the particular purpose described in this contract.
- (p) **Limitation of liability.** Except as otherwise provided by an express or implied warranty, the Contractor will not be liable to the Government for consequential damages resulting from any defect or deficiencies in accepted items.
- (q) **Other compliances.** The Contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, executive orders, rules and regulations applicable to its performance under this contract.

- (r) **Compliance with laws unique to Government contracts.** The Contractor agrees to comply with 31 U.S.C. 1352 relating to limitations on the use of appropriated funds to influence certain Federal contracts; 18 U.S.C. 431 relating to officials not to benefit; 40 U.S.C. 327, et seq., Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act; 41 U.S.C. 51-58, Anti-Kickback Act of 1986; 41 U.S.C. 265 and 10 U.S.C. 2409 relating to whistleblower protections; 49 U.S.C. 40118, Fly American; and 41 U.S.C. 423 relating to procurement integrity.
- (s) **Order of precedence.** Any inconsistencies in this solicitation or contract shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following order: (1) the schedule of supplies/services; (2) the Assignments, Disputes, Payments, Invoice, Other Compliances, and Compliance with Laws Unique to Government Contracts paragraphs of this clause; (3) the clause at 52.212-5; (4) addenda to this solicitation or contract, including any license agreements for computer software; (5) solicitation provisions if this is a solicitation; (6) other paragraphs of this clause; (7) the Standard Form 1449; (8) other documents, exhibits, and attachments; and (9) the specification.

**Special Note:** Regarding "(g) Invoice" above. Task orders will be placed against resultant contract by agencies utilizing this schedule. Payment will be made by the office indicated on the task order and paid directly to the contractor. Invoices shall be submitted to the government office designated on the order to receive invoices.

### ORDERING PROCEDURES FOR SERVICES

FAR 8.402 contemplates that GSA may occasionally find it necessary to establish special ordering procedures for individual Federal Supply Schedules or for some Special Item Numbers (SINs) within a Schedule. GSA has established special ordering procedures for services that require a Statement of Work. These special ordering procedures take precedence over the procedures in FAR 8.404

GSA has determined that the prices for services contained in the contractor's price list applicable to this Schedule are fair and reasonable. However, the ordering office using this contract is responsible for considering the level of effort and mix of labor proposed to perform a specific task being ordered and for making a determination that the total firm-fixed price or ceiling price is fair and reasonable.

#### 1. When ordering services, ordering offices shall—

##### a. Prepare a Request for Quotes:

- (1) A performance-based statement of work that outlines, at a minimum, the work to be performed, location of work, period of performance, deliverable schedule, applicable standards, acceptance criteria, and any special requirements (i.e., security clearances, travel, special knowledge, etc.) should be prepared.
- (2) A request for quotes should be prepared which includes the performance-based statement of work and requests the contractors to submit either a firm-fixed price or a ceiling price to provide the services outlined in the statement of work. A firm-fixed price order shall be requested, unless the ordering office makes a determination that it is not possible at the time of placing the order to estimate accurately the extent or duration of the work or to anticipate cost with any reasonable degree of confidence. When such a determination is made, a labor hour or time-and-materials quote may be requested. The firm-fixed price shall be based on the hourly rates in the schedule contract and shall consider the mix of labor categories and level of effort required to perform the services described in the statement of work. The firm-fixed price of the order should also include any travel costs or other incidental costs related to performance of the services ordered, unless the order provides for reimbursement of travel costs at the rates provided in the Federal Travel or Joint Travel Regulations. A ceiling price must be established for labor-hour and time-and-materials orders.
- (3) The request for quotes may request the contractors, if necessary or appropriate, to submit a project plan for performing the task and information on the contractor's experience and/or past performance performing similar tasks.
- (4) The request shall notify the contractors what basis will be used for selecting the contractor to receive the order. The notice shall include the basis for determining whether the contractors are technically qualified and provide an explanation regarding the intended use of any experience and/or past performance information in determining technical qualification of responses.



**b. Transmit the Request for Quotes to Contractors:**

- (1) Based upon an initial evaluation of catalogs and price lists, the ordering office should identify the contractors that appear to offer the best value (considering the scope of services offered, hourly rates and other factors such as contractors' locations, as appropriate).
- (2) The request for quotes should be provided to three (3) contractors if the proposed order is estimated to exceed the micro-purchase threshold, but not exceed the maximum order threshold. For proposed orders exceeding the maximum order threshold, the request for quotes should be provided to additional contractors that offer services that will meet the agency's needs. Ordering offices should strive to minimize the contractors' costs associated with responding to requests for quotes for specific orders. Requests should be tailored to the minimum level necessary for adequate evaluation and selection for order placement. Oral presentations should be considered, when possible.

**c. Evaluate Responses and Select the Contractor to Receive the Order:**

After responses have been evaluated against the factors identified in the request for quotes, the order should be placed with the schedule contractor that represents the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative (considering price, special qualifications, administrative costs, etc.) to meet the Government's needs.

2. The establishment of Federal Supply Schedule Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) for recurring services is permitted when the procedures outlined herein are followed. All BPAs for services must define the services that may be ordered under the BPA, along with delivery or performance time frames, billing procedures, etc. The potential volume of orders under BPAs, regardless of the size of individual orders, may offer the ordering office the opportunity to secure volume discounts. When establishing BPAs ordering offices shall –
  - a. Inform contractors in the request for quotes (based on the agency's requirement) if a single BPA or multiple BPAs will be established, and indicate the basis that will be used for selecting the contractors to be awarded the BPAs.

- (1) **SINGLE BPA:** Generally, a single BPA should be established when the ordering office can define the tasks to be ordered under the BPA and establish a firm-fixed price or ceiling price for individual tasks or services to be ordered. When this occurs, authorized users may place the order directly under the established BPA when the need for service arises. The schedule contractor that represents the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative to meet the agency's needs should be awarded the BPA.

- (2) **MULTIPLE BPAs:** When the ordering office determines multiple BPAs are needed to meet its requirements, the ordering office should determine which contractors can meet any technical qualifications before establishing the BPAs. When multiple BPAs are established, the authorized users must follow the procedures in II.B above, and then place the order with the Schedule contractor that represents the best value and results in the lowest overall cost alternative to meet the agency's needs.

- b. **Review BPAs Periodically.** Such reviews shall be conducted at least annually. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the BPA still represents the best value (considering price, special qualifications, etc.) and results in the lowest overall cost alternative to meet the agency's needs.

3. The ordering office should give preference to small business concerns when two or more contractors can provide the services at the same firm-fixed price or ceiling price.
4. When the ordering office's requirement involves both products as well as professional services, the ordering office should total the prices for the products and the firm-fixed price for the services and select the contractor that represents the greatest value in terms of meeting the agency's total needs.
5. The ordering office, at a minimum, should document orders by identifying the contractor the services were purchased from, the services purchased, and the amount paid. If other than a firm-fixed price order is placed, such documentation should include the basis for the determination to use a labor-hour or time-and-materials order. For agency requirements in excess of the micro-purchase threshold, the order file should document the evaluation of Schedule contractors' quotes that formed the basis for the selection of the contractor that received the order and the rationale for any trade-offs made in making the selection.



**PROCEDURES FOR FIXED PRICES ON GSA SCHEDULE**

The ordering procedures set forth at FAR 8.404 should be used for those services based on fixed prices. The Contractor is advised that based on the specific task identified at the task order level, it may use Clause 552.238-75, Price Reduction, to provide a proposed fixed price to the agency to more accurately reflect the actual work required.

**SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR TASK ORDERS**

Agencies may incorporate provisions in their task order that are essential to their requirements (e.g., security clearances, hazardous substances, special handling, key personnel, etc.). These provisions, when required, will be included in individual task orders. Any cost necessary for the contractor to comply with the provision(s) will be included in the task order proposal, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Contractors are strongly encouraged to price all items in the contract, to the maximum extent practicable.

**CONTRACTOR TEAM ARRANGEMENTS AND FEDERAL SUPPLY SCHEDULES**

In the spirit of the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act, all Federal agencies have been encouraged to facilitate innovative contracting/acquisition approaches. FAR Part 1.102 provides Guiding Principles on the Federal Acquisition System, outlining what the System will achieve -

- Satisfy the customer (cost, quality and timeliness of delivery)
- Maximize use of commercial products and services
- Consider contractor’s past performance
- Promoting competition
- Minimize administrative costs
- Conduct business with integrity, fairness and openness
- Fulfill public policy objectives

The Federal Supply Schedule program is a source that customers may use to achieve what the System has outlined for Acquisition Teams to follow.

Each member of the “Acquisition Team” is to exercise personal initiative and sound business judgment and is responsible for making acquisition decisions that deliver the best value product or service to meet the customers’ needs. FAR 1.102-4 further empowers Government Team members to make acquisition decisions within their areas of responsibility including selection, negotiation and administration. The contracting officer has the authority to the maximum extent practical, to determine the applications of rules, regulations, and policies.

In light of these changes, Federal Supply Schedule customers may refer to FAR 9.6 - Contractors Team Arrangements. The policy and procedures outlined in this part will provide more flexibility and allow innovative acquisition methods when using the Federal Supply Schedules. Customers are encouraged to review this section and should note this is permissible after contract award. Team Arrangements combined with the Federal Supply Schedule Program provides Federal customers a powerful commercial acquisition strategy.

**BASIC GUIDELINES FOR USING “CONTRACTOR TEAM ARRANGEMENTS”**

Federal Supply Schedule contractors may use “Contractor Team Arrangements” (see FAR 9.6) to provide solutions when responding to a customer agency requirements.

These Team Arrangements can be included under a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA). BPA’s are permitted under all Federal Supply Schedule contracts.

Orders under a Team Arrangement are subject to terms and conditions of the Federal Supply Schedule contract.

Participation in a Team Arrangement is limited to Federal Supply Schedule contractors.

Customers should refer to FAR 9.6 for specific details on Team Arrangements.

Here is a general outline on how it works:

- The customer identifies their requirements.
- Federal Supply Schedule contractors may individually meet the customers needs, or -
- Federal Supply Schedule contracts may submit a Schedules “Team Solution” to meet the customer’s requirement.
- Customers make a best value selection.